

Consolidated Grant Topic Group Task Plan

Status : Active: Revised August 2000

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Background

The concept of a consolidated grant arose from recommendations provided by TEC and other external parties to the DOE Senior Executive Transportation Forum in July 1998. It was recommended that DOE consider consolidating the multiple funding streams from various DOE programs into a single grant to provide a more efficient, equitable means of assistance to impacted States and Tribes in preparing for DOE nuclear materials shipments. The Forum appointed a DOE internal working group to examine the issues and report back. Following this report, the Forum suggested continued discussions about the feasibility of a consolidated grant process within DOE and with State and Tribal stakeholders. These discussions have continued, pending the decision by the Secretary of Energy to proceed with developing a grant.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Topic Group is to identify and clarify key issues concerning the proposed consolidated grant from the perspective of potential State and Tribal recipients. Specific issues on which DOE is seeking input include:

- ◆ What are the objectives of the grant? What criteria should DOE and the participants use to evaluate the outcomes of the grant?
- ◆ What activities should be funded to achieve the results desired? (i.e., allowable activities, including activities related to both emergency management and inspection and enforcement).
- ◆ How should the funding be allocated?
- ◆ What factors should be included (numbers of shipments, population, highway miles) and should they be weighted?
- ◆ Should a discretionary grant component be adopted to address specific needs or special activities and, if so, how should it be designed and implemented?
- ◆ How should State fees assessed on carriers of radioactive materials be taken into account?
- ◆ What State and Tribal administrative features will affect implementation of the proposed grant? What does DOE need to know to enhance efficiency of the administrative process and to ensure accountability of recipients?
- ◆ What issues are of particular concern to the Tribes?
- ◆ Should there be different criteria for States and Tribes? If so, what are the different criteria?

Schedule

1. Initial Conference Call, December 13, 1999:
 - ◆ Discussion/explanation of concept.
 - ◆ Overview of issues previously raised at the TEC/WG meeting in July 1999 and summary of Senior Executive Transportation Forum comments.
 - ◆ Request to members to identify and list priority issues from the perspective of their organization/constituency.
2. Conference Call, January 19, 2000
 - ◆ Discussion of this draft Task Plan and schedule.
 - ◆ Identification and clarification of issues that are a priority to topic group participants.
 - ◆ Allocation of responsibilities to members for developing preliminary statements on priority issues.
3. Topic Group Meeting, Las Vegas, February 15-17, 2000
 - ◆ Discussion of grant features and issues.
 - ◆ “Hands-on” demonstration of potential FINCALC formula to demonstrate use of various features/weighting of factors in allocating potential funding.
 - ◆ Agreement on next steps/actions.
4. Conference calls, April and June 2000
 - ◆ Continued circulation and discussion of members’ views on grant features.
 - ◆ Summary of recommended allowable activities and key issues for continued discussion at TEC Topic Group meeting, July 2000.
5. TEC Meeting, Indianapolis, July 25-27, 2000
 - ◆ Discussion of key grant features and issues (Topic and Breakout Groups):
 - Factors related to eligibility/allocation
 - Recipient administrative issues
 - Potential grant components
 - State fees
 - Allowable activities
 - Grant criteria

6. DOE Management and Subsequent TEC Activities

- ◆ Briefing on Topic Group discussions to Senior Executive Transportation Forum, March, 2000.
- ◆ Memorandum to the Secretary of Energy requesting his approval for proceeding with development of the grant (April - July, 2000).
- ◆ Memorandum approved by the Secretary, August 22, 2000
- ◆ Internal DOE meeting, September 7, 2000
- ◆ Completion of Draft Implementation Plan for internal DOE and external TEC review, September 18, 2000
- ◆ Comments due on Draft Implementation Plan, September 29, 2000
- ◆ Second internal DOE meeting, October 5, 2000
- ◆ Implementation Plan, incorporating internal and external comments, submitted to Secretary of Energy, October 16, 2000
- ◆ TEC Topic Group conference calls, State (including regional organizations) and Tribal meetings, ongoing.